



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 2120

RICHMOND 23218-2120

### SNP Memo No. 2014-2015-07

TO: Directors, Supervisors, and Contact Persons  
School Nutrition Programs

FROM: Catherine Digilio Grimes, MS, RDN, LDN, SNS  
Director, Office of School Nutrition Programs

*Catherine Digilio Grimes*

DATE: January 27, 2015

SUBJECT: 2015 Virginia Farm to School Conference - Cultivating Success

You are invited to attend Virginia's first **Farm to School Conference - Cultivating Success**

**Dates:** Wednesday, March 18 – Thursday, March 19, 2015

**Times:** 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Wednesday and 7:30 a.m. to 12 noon, Thursday

**Location:** Double Tree by Hilton  
990 Hilton Heights Road  
Charlottesville, VA 22901

(Room rates of \$125 + taxes)  
Book by February 20, 2015 to guarantee group rate.

Click [here](#) for the online reservation link. Or call (1-434-973-2121) and ask for the Virginia Farm to School Conference Group.

**Registration:** Required. Registration Fee is \$40. Register on line at  
<http://www.cvent.com/events/virginia-farm-to-school-conference-cultivating-success/event-summary-a8c79d591421446c906b6690ca1cbd2f.aspx>

The conference will open with welcoming remarks from Mrs. Dorothy McAuliffe, the First Lady of Virginia. Mrs. McAuliffe is a great supporter of the school nutrition programs, farm to school and ending childhood hunger. She is particularly interested in improving food delivery systems so that nutritious and fresh food products are more accessible to Virginia children and families with the added benefit of promoting local agricultural economic development opportunities and improving health and education outcomes.

The agenda will feature both general sessions and break out sessions for school nutrition professionals, farmers, and community advocates. A wide variety of topics such as:

- *Farm to School on a Shoestring*
- *Building a Farm to School Program from the Ground Up*
- *Understanding Food Safety from Farms to Schools*
- *Virginia Grown School Procurement, A School's Guide to Purchasing Locally Sourced Foods*
- *Virginia Grown School Procurement, A Farmer's Guide to Selling to Schools*
- *Distribution Models for Farm to School*
- *Grow, Eat, and Learn with School Gardens*
- and much more.

For conference details, visit the website at

<http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/marketing/f2sconference.shtml>.

Most importantly, this conference will provide a venue to showcase, network, and inspire. The conference seeks to provide a centralized voice in the Commonwealth that will create a more vibrant and sustainable farm to school program in Virginia.

If you have questions or need further information, contact your school nutrition programs specialist.

CDG/idl